

BAY-DELTA URBAN COALITION

February 1, 1999

Mr. Lester A. Snow, Executive Director
CALFED Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Subject: Position Statement on Draft Preferred Alternative Outlined
in CALFED's Revised Phase II Report**

Dear Mr. Snow:

Representatives of the Bay-Delta Urban Coalition¹ have been active participants in the CALFED Bay-Delta Program to develop a long-term, broad-based consensus agreement for improving the Bay-Delta Estuary. We collectively supply water to over 22 million people in urban communities around the state; communities that form a cornerstone in the state's thriving economy.

The Urban Coalition commends Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt, Governor Pete Wilson, and CALFED for developing a draft preferred Bay-Delta alternative (outlined in the Revised Phase II Report) that reflects a significant stride forward on a number of policy issues affecting the Bay-Delta. The Urban Coalition supports CALFED's commitment in this document to achieve *continuous improvements* in the four interrelated problem areas affecting the Bay-Delta and their commitment to *measurable milestones* to be used as indicators of this continuous improvement.

The Urban Coalition looks forward to continuing our work with Secretary Babbitt, Governor Davis, and CALFED to reach agreement on details of a preferred alternative and other remaining issues that need to be resolved prior to the Record of Decision and implementing a long-term Bay-Delta solution that can benefit all of California.

¹ Bay-Delta Urban Coalition consists of 11 agencies representing over 22 million people in urban communities throughout California. Coalition agencies include Alameda County Water District, Central Coast Water Authority, City and County of San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, Coachella Valley Water District, East Bay Municipal Utility District, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, Municipal Water District of Orange County, San Diego County Water Authority, Santa Clara Valley Water District, Solano County Water Agency and Central/West Basin Municipal Water District.

The following is a list of the key policy principles supported by the Urban Coalition.

Overview of Key Urban Coalition Principles:

- 1) We support the overall CALFED effort. However, CALFED must provide a balanced solution with continuous and timely progress in all problem areas. To ensure ongoing support, the program schedule should not continue to slide.
 - 2) Strong federal and state funding must be made available to support a balanced program of environmental, water supply, and water quality improvements.
 - 3) CALFED must resolve critical issues this year, including interim drinking water quality benchmarks, the operations of an Environmental Water Account, and details relating to the appropriate mix of new surface and groundwater storage.
 - 4) The process needs a renewed consensus effort to bridge the differences between environmental interests and other stakeholder communities.
-

The Urban Coalition has supported the CALFED process since its inception. We will continue to support a long-term Bay-Delta solution and Stage I actions that result in:

- ✓ Continuous and measurable improvements in drinking water quality, water quality for resource management, water supply reliability and ecosystem restoration.
- ✓ Creation of a Delta Drinking Water Council (DDWC) to assess progress on meeting drinking water quality goals.
- ✓ Establishment of interim water quality targets prior to a Record of Decision of the EIS/EIR as a means for the DDWC to measure progress towards achieving Delta source water quality goals in a timely manner to meet future state and federal drinking water quality standards.
- ✓ Development of a detailed operational plan and agreement for an Environmental Water Account (EWA) to achieve substantial fishery recovery while providing for continuous improvement in water quality and supply reliability with regulatory certainty for water users.
- ✓ Increased state and federal investments in conservation, recycling and groundwater conjunctive use programs in California.
- ✓ Recognition that while conservation, recycling and existing groundwater conjunctive use programs are critical elements of an integrated Bay-Delta solution, construction of new groundwater and surface storage is required to meet water quality and reliability objectives, open the market for water transfers and manage the Bay-Delta system to benefit fisheries.
- ✓ Firm assurances that if the water quality, supply reliability and ecosystem objectives outlined in the Revised Phase II Report are not accomplished, additional actions to achieve higher quality source water will be taken, possibly including an isolated facility.

Urban Coalition Response to CALFED Revised Phase II Report

- ✓ Assurances that benefits received by urban California from the CALFED solution are comparable to the benefits gained by other areas of California.
- ✓ Assurances that urban California will not pay more than their fair share of the long-term solution, commensurate with the benefits received.
- ✓ Development of an implementation agreement and complete programmatic findings for defining the criteria and process for pursuing facilities before the Record of Decision, to ensure CALFED actions move forward in a balanced manner.
- ✓ Continued stakeholder involvement and stakeholder support of all facets of the long-term solution.

Sincerely,

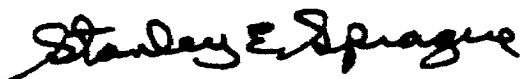
BAY-DELTA URBAN COALITION STEERING COMMITTEE



Randele Kanouse
East Bay Municipal Water District



Timothy Quinn
Metropolitan Water District of Southern California



Stanley E. Sprague
Municipal Water District of Orange County



Michael Carlin
San Francisco Public Utilities Commission



Walt Wadlow
Santa Clara Valley Water District



Gordon Hess
San Diego County Water Authority

CC: CALFED Policy Group
Bay-Delta Advisory Council